

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A vibration damper for inhibiting transfer of vibration to an apparatus during the evacuation thereof by a pump, the damper comprising a bellows arrangement for isolating from the ambient atmosphere, fluid drawn from the apparatus by the pump, and means for limiting axial compression of the bellows arrangement during use of the damper, wherein the damper is axially pre-compressed by means for limiting axial extension of the bellows arrangement, but simultaneously permitting axial compression of the same.

2. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein the bellows arrangement is integral with the pump.

3. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein one end of the bellows arrangement is directly attached to the pump.

4. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 3 wherein said one end of the bellows arrangement is directly attached to a flange integral with the housing of the pump.

5. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 3 wherein the

other end of the bellows arrangement is attached to a flange for connecting the pump to the apparatus.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 1 further comprising first and second flanges each attached to a respective end of the bellows arrangement and connectable to a respective one of the pump and the apparatus.

8. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein the bellows arrangement defines at least part of a flow path for fluid drawn from the apparatus by the pump.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein the ~~extension limiting~~ means for limiting axial extension is attached to at least one end of the bellows arrangement.

11. (Currently Amended) The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein the ~~extension limiting~~ means for limiting axial extension comprises first and second co-operating members each attached to a respective end of the bellows arrangement.

12. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 11 wherein each member comprises a V-shaped member attached to diametrically opposed locations on the respective end of the bellows arrangement such that the members co-operate to draw the ends of the bellows arrangement together so as to pre-compress the damper.

13. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 11 wherein each member is connected to the respective end of the bellows arrangement via a respective flange.

14. (Currently Amended) The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein the means for limiting axial extension comprises an axially extending member attached to ~~one of the flanges~~ a first flange and engaging ~~the other flange~~ a second flange to pre-compress the damper.

15. (Currently Amended) The vibration damper according to claim 14 wherein the axially extending member passes through an aperture located in the ~~other~~ first flange, a distal part of the axially extending member engaging the ~~other~~ second flange.

16. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 1 wherein the means for limiting axial compression comprises resistive means arranged under tension in such a way that when the damper is subjected to an external axial force tending to compress the bellows arrangement, the resistive means is subjected to a tensile force, the resistance to extension of the resistive means opposing axial compression of the bellows

17. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the bellows arrangement extends about an axis and the resistive means is arranged about said axis.

18. (Previously Presented) A vibration damper for inhibiting transfer of vibration to an apparatus during the evacuation thereof by a pump, the damper comprising a bellows arrangement for isolating from the ambient atmosphere, fluid drawn from the apparatus by the pump, wherein the bellows arrangement extends about an axis, and resistive means arranged about said axis and under tension so that when the damper is subjected to an external axial force tending to compress the bellows arrangement, the resistive means is subjected to a tensile force, the resistance to extension of the resistive means opposing axial compression of the bellows arrangement, wherein the damper is axially pre-compressed by means for limiting axial extension of the bellows arrangement, but simultaneously permitting axial compression of the same.

19. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 18 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the damper.

20. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the pump.

21. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 20 wherein the resistive means is attached to the housing of the pump.

22. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the bellows arrangement.

23. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means comprises a plurality of resistive elements.

24. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 23 wherein each resistive element comprises a metal coil tension spring.

25. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 23 wherein each of the resistive elements is inclined relative to a plane extending orthogonally to said axis.

26. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 23 wherein each resistive element is attached at one end to a first radially extending flange and at the other end to a second radially extending flange, the first and second radially extending flanges being axially separated.

27. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 26 wherein said one end of the resistive element is attached to the first radially extending flange via a

28. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 27 wherein the support member extends through an aperture in the second radially extending flange.

29. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 27 wherein the other end of the resistive element is attached to the second radially extending flange.

30. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 27 comprising means for contacting the support member upon rotation of one flange relative to the other to inhibit relative rotational movement therebetween.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The vibration damper according to claim 7 wherein the damper is axially pre-compressed by the means for limiting axial extension of the bellows arrangement comprising first and second co-operating members each comprising a V-shaped member attached to diametrically opposed locations on the respective end of the bellows arrangement such that the members co-operate to draw the ends of the bellows arrangement together so as to pre-compress the damper and wherein each member is connected to the respective end of the bellows arrangement via a respective flange.

33. (Currently Amended) The vibration damper according to claim 1 further comprising first and second flanges each attached to a respective end of the bellows arrangement and connectable to a respective one of the pump and the apparatus wherein the damper is axially pre-compressed by the means for limiting axial extension of the bellows arrangement comprising an axially extending member attached to ~~one of the flanges~~ the first flange and engaging the ~~other~~ second flange to pre-compress the damper.

34. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 16 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the damper.

35. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 19 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the pump.

36. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 35 wherein the resistive means is attached to the housing of the pump.

37. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 36 wherein the resistive means is arranged about the bellows arrangement.

38. (Previously Presented) The vibration damper according to claim 37 wherein the resistive means comprises a plurality of resistive elements.